

**REMARKS**

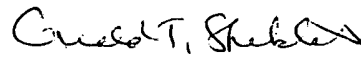
In the above-identified Office Action, The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 11 as being anticipated by the patent to Horton. The Examiner stated that Horton discloses a device for reducing the peak power of a pulsed laser light source as illustrated in FIG. 4. Applicant has amended Claim 1 so that it now includes that an easily detuned Kepler telescope is in detour lines. This accomplishes the object of the subject invention which is to receive at the end of the device in a projection exposure system for the manufacture of semiconductor elements an exact beam quality even though there are different beam lengths. This detuning is necessary to compensate for the fact that there are two plates, namely the splitter mirrors, 3 and 4 which are inclined in the beam, which leads to aberration. An easily detuned Kepler telescope can compensate for these aberrations. None of the prior art documents teach or suggest such a solution to the problem of the aberrations and accordingly, Applicant believes that as amended Claim 1 now recites over the art.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination of the subject application.

With the above amendment and remarks this application is considered ready for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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**MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

If the beam quality of the pulsed laser light source is degraded by the different path lengths, it can be reconstituted, for example, by means of an easily detuned Kepler telescope (somewhat adapted to the excimer laser divergence in the individual case) with its two lenses 16a and 16b - as indicated in Figure 1- in the second detour line 11. A single lens also comes into consideration for this purpose. However, it is also possible, of course, to extend the design mentioned above, and, for example, to provide yet further detour lines to the extent that appears spatially feasible and that a further lowering of the peak powers still yields advantages.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (amended) A device [for reducing the peak power of a pulsed laser light source, in particular] for a projection exposure system, there being arranged in the beam path of the pulsed laser light source at least one beam splitter apparatus by means of which at least one detour line for at least one partial beam is produced via reflecting components, with an easily detuned Kepler telescope arranged in the detour line wherein there is arranged in the beam path [(1)] a beam recombining element [(9)] in or on which the partial beams [(1a, 10a, 1b, 10b)] are reunited to form a total beam.
2. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detour line [(5 or 11)] has a length such that an optical path difference of more than 0.5 m is produced between the partial beams [(1a, 1b or 10a, 10b)].
3. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least three reflecting components [(6, 7, 8 or 12, 13, 14)] form a detour line [(5 or 11)].
4. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein for polarized laser beams the beam splitter apparatus has a mirror [(3 or 4)] which is arranged at an angle to the beam path [(1)].

7. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reflecting components are constructed as mirrors [(6, 7, 8 or 12, 13, 14)].
8. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein two detour lines [(5, 11)] are arranged in series in the beam path [(1)].
9. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein a first detour line [(5)] has a length of over 2 m, and a second detour line [(11)] has a length of over 10 m.
11. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the beam recombining element [(9, 15)] is constructed such that a portion of the partial beam [(1b or 10b)] which has run via the detour line [(5 or 11)] is repeatedly sent via the detour line [(5 or 11)].
12. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one phase-retarding plate [(21, 22)] is arranged in the beam path.
13. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein a phase-retarding plate [(21)] is arranged in the beam path [(1)] upstream of the beam splitter apparatus [(3)], and at least one further phase-retarding plate [(22)] is arranged in the detour line [(5)].